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AS Button captions of the patient bar P are driven by the current state of patient information which is drawn from the database.

In the Claims:

A clean version of the replacement claims follows and a marked-up version of the replacement claims is attached to this amendment:

Ab 1. A method of managing and tracking blood products between a plurality of remote patient facilities and a central blood testing facility wherein a blood specimen is obtained from each patient who requires a blood reserve for possible transfusion and said specimen is transferred to said central blood testing facility comprising the steps of:

providing an inventory of blood products at said central blood testing facility;

selecting one of said blood products which has an available segment at said central blood testing facility;

detaching said segment from said blood product at said central blood testing facility;

transferring one of said blood products from said central blood testing facility to one of said remote patient facilities at which said patient is located;

assigning said segment to said patient specimen for crossmatching at said central blood testing facility;

remote serological crossmatching each said patient

specimen and said segment of said blood product at said central blood testing facility to determine their compatibility with one another;

determining all of the blood attributes of said one of said blood products and said patient specimen;

determining the compatibility of said one of said blood products and patient specimen selected by comparing all of said blood attributes thereof;

managing said blood products by preparing a patient identification database of each of said blood products, segments and patient specimens and storing information in said database at each of said central blood testing and remote patient facilities which correlates each of said blood products, segments and patient specimens, their location and movement; and

tracking the location and movement of each of said blood products, segments and patient specimens in said database between said remote patient facilities and said central blood testing facility by displaying the information stored in said database relating to their location and movement.

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3. The method according to claim 1 including the step of assigning said blood products and said patient specimens to a location within each of said remote patient facilities and said central blood testing facility and tracking any movement of said blood products and said patient specimens to other locations.

4. The method according to claim 1 including the step of displaying said patient identification information on a computer at each of said remote patient facilities and central blood testing facility.

5. ^ The method according to claim [1] 4 including the step of displaying said information on a patient bar on each said computer which is accessible to all users regardless of their location at each of said facilities.

6. The method according to claim 1 further characterized by crossmatching a segment of each said blood product and each said patient specimen at said central blood testing facility, assigning each said segment and each said patient specimen to a location in said central blood testing and remote patient facility, and recording said location in said database.

7. The method according to claim 2 including the step of selectively displaying the absence or presence of each item of information stored including special needs, patient comments, prior transfusion reaction history, autologous blood availability, directed blood components, blood type, presence of unexpected antibodies, patient specimen expiration date and reserved blood components.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of cross-matching includes the step of producing a product identification tag and attaching to each said blood component.

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9. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of determining all of the blood attributes is characterized by comparing the antigens and antibodies in each of said blood products and said patient specimens to determine whether each is present in each segment of said blood product and said patient specimen tested and storing said information in said database.

10. A programmable method for managing and tracking blood products, patient specimens and segments between a plurality of hospitals and a central blood testing facility wherein a computer database is provided for recording information and a screen is provided for displaying said information, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a blood specimen from each patient requiring a blood product to be reserved for possible transfusion;

assigning a segment of a blood product for crossmatching;

remote serological crossmatching each said segment and said patient specimen at said facility to determine their compatibility with one another;

managing each said segment and said patient specimen crossmatched by identifying each said segment, said component and said patient specimen with patient identification information and recording said patient identification information on said database; and

tracking the location and movement of each of said segments, said products and said patient specimens between said hospitals and said facility.

11. A method according to claim 10 further characterized by determining all attributes of each of said blood products and said patient specimens prior to said crossmatching.

12. A method according to claim 10 including the step of testing the compatibility of said [blood type] attributes prior to said crossmatching.

13. A method according to claim 12 characterized by

periodically updating said attributes and recording said information in said database.

14. A method according to claim 10 including the step of tracking the location of each said segment and said patient specimen by recording their movement between said test facility and patient location.

15. A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording blood attributes of each said patient specimen in said database.

16. A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording prior transfusion reaction history of each said patient in said database.

17. A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording autologous blood availability in said database.

18. A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording blood type of each said blood product and said patient specimen.

19. A method according to claim 10 including the step of recording the specimen expiration date of each said segment and said patient specimen.

20. A system for managing blood products and tracking their movement between a central blood test facility and a plurality of hospitals wherein a computer is provided for processing data including a screen for displaying information, said

system comprising:

managing means having first means including a database for entering information pertaining to each patient requiring a blood reserve, second means for entering blood type information for a blood specimen from each said patient, third means for recording a blood type for a blood product assigned to each said patient, fourth means for recording on said database results of comparing blood attributes of each said patient specimen and said blood product;

fifth means for recording on said database results of serological crossmatching of each said patient specimen and said blood product; and

tracking means for tracking the location and movement of each of said blood products and patient specimens between said blood test facility and said hospitals by displaying on said screen the information stored in said database relating to their location and movement.

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29. In a blood management system for managing information relating to blood products between a central blood test facility and one or more remote patient facilities wherein a computer is provided for processing data, a database is provided for recording said information and a screen is provided for displaying said information recorded, the improvement comprising:

managing means including means for recording information identifying each patient requiring a blood reserve on said database, means for obtaining and recording a blood specimen from each said patient, means for assigning a segment of a blood product for crossmatching, means for remote serological crossmatching each said segment and said patient specimen at said blood test facility to determine their compatibility with one

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another, means for identifying each said segment and said patient specimen, and means for assigning said segment, said blood product and said patient specimen to a location in one of said blood test facility and said remote patient facilities.

Cancel claim 27.

Kindly add the following claim:

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31. In a programmable blood management system according to claim 29 including means for displaying information relating to the location of each of said segments and said patient specimens.